

# memorandum

DATE: February 11, 2004

REPLY TO

ATTN OF: NE-70

SUBJECT: Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary-2004

TO: Beverly A. Cook, Assistant Secretary  
for Environment, Safety and Health

As required under DOE Order 451.1B, the Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE) NEPA Planning Summary for the year 2004 is attached. Should you or your staff have any questions or comments on this summary, please contact Raj Sharma, NE NEPA Compliance Officer, at (301) 903-2899.



William D. Magwood, IV, Director  
Office of Nuclear Energy, Science  
and Technology

Attachment

cc: Carol M. Borgstrom, EH

FEB 11 2004

Rec'd 2/11/04

## **Attachment**

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary-2004 Office of Nuclear Energy, Science and Technology (NE)**

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#### **Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities**

##### Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Remote Treatment Project (DOE EA 1386)

The proposed action is to provide heavily shielded remote waste handling services for Argonne National Laboratory-West (ANL-W) and INEEL legacy and newly-generated remote-handled (RH) waste. The project would include a shielded hot cell with equipment for sorting, characterizing, treating, and repackaging highly radioactive transuranic, mixed, and other radioactive waste. The facility mission is to make RH radioactive wastes ready for shipment to the disposal facility. Much of the proposed action was analyzed in the Department of Energy (DOE) Programmatic Spent Nuclear Fuel Management and Idaho National Engineering Laboratory Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Programs Final Environmental Impact Statement (DOE/EIS-0203-F) as the Remote Mixed Waste Treatment Facility project. Notice of Intent (to prepare an EA) letters were mailed to the State of Idaho and Shoshone-Bannock Tribal contacts in January 2001. The draft EA was put on hold pending resolution of management options. A new alternatives analysis report is under preparation, and the draft EA will be modified to incorporate the analysis from this report. The final EA is scheduled for completion in August 2004. The total cost is estimated to be \$150,000. The EA is being prepared at ANL-W and will be approved by the Manager, Idaho Operations Office. The NE Program Manager and the NEPA Compliance Officer will participate in review and approval of the EA.

#### **EAs Expected to be Prepared in the Next 12 months**

##### EA for Uranium-233 (U-233) Disposition and Building 3019A Deactivation

The main objectives of this effort are to process and repackage DOE's inventory of U-233 stored in the Radiochemical Development Facility (Building 3019A) at the Oak Ridge National Laboratory to render it suitable for safe, long-term, economical storage including elimination of the need for criticality and safeguards and security controls, and in the process, to extract Thorium-229 for beneficial use in medical research and potential treatment from as much of the U-233 inventory as is practicable. The Oak Ridge Operations Office has the lead in preparation and approval of the EA. The EA is expected to be completed by August 2004. The NE Program Manager and the NEPA Compliance Officer will participate in review and approval of the EA.

#### **Environmental Impact Statements Expected to be Prepared in the Next 24 Months**

None



**Department of Energy**  
Office of Science  
Washington, DC 20585

February 2, 2004

**Office of the Director**

MEMORANDUM FOR BEVERLY A. COOK  
ASSISTANT SECRETARY  
FOR ENVIRONMENT, SAFETY AND HEALTH

FROM: MILTON D. JOHNSON   
DEPUTY DIRECTOR FOR OPERATIONS

SUBJECT: Office of Science Annual NEPA Planning Summary for  
CY 2004

The Department of Energy (DOE) Order 451.1B, *National Environmental Policy Act Compliance Program*, requires each Secretarial Officer and Head of Field Organization to submit to your office by January 31 an Annual National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Planning Summary. This memorandum constitutes the Office of Science (SC) submittal for 2004.

NEPA Documentation - My NEPA Compliance Officer (NCO) has coordinated the contents of this submittal with the SC Program Offices, with the NCOs of the Chicago and Oak Ridge Operations Offices, which administer SC-sponsored research at SC's laboratories, and with the Site Offices that currently report to SC. We have agreed that this Summary will provide the reporting for SC Headquarters (HQ), as well as for the Berkeley Site Office (BSO), Stanford Site Office (SSO), and Pacific Northwest Site Office (PNSO). The Chicago and Oak Ridge Operations Offices will provide the reporting for the Environmental Assessments (EA) and the Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) related to SC activities and proposals that are under their purview.

There are no EAs envisioned at this time that would be prepared under the purview of SC HQ during the next 12 months, and there are no EISs envisioned during the next 24 months.

The PNSO anticipates preparing an EA during the next 12 months on the "Proposed Pacific Northwest National Laboratory Office of Science Replacement Facilities." A formal NEPA determination has not been made by PNSO. When the determination is approved, SC will provide the NEPA planning information to EH. There are no EAs or EISs envisioned during this time frame by BSO or SSO.

Status of Ongoing NEPA Compliance Activities - The SC/HQ NCO coordinates the NEPA compliance program for SC's HQ Program Offices. The NCO also assists the



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Operations Offices and Site Offices that administer SC-sponsored research at the National Laboratories. This program and its initiatives are contained in the Office of Laboratory Operations and ES&H (SC-80) portion of the Office of Science website, located at the address below. This web site currently is being revised and updated.

<http://www.sc.doe.gov/sc-80/sc-83/nepacomp.shtml>

The SC NCO is assisting the SC Site Offices in the planning for their assuming the line NEPA function in the field once the SC Restructuring Initiative is in place later this fiscal year. At that time, SC may sponsor a NEPA workshop for its HQ Program Offices, Site Offices, and the SC Integrated Service Center. The SC NCO will continue to host and coordinate regular monthly conference calls among the Site Offices and the Operations Office NCOs.

If there are questions on this NEPA Planning Summary, please direct them to Clarence Hickey, the Office of Science NEPA Compliance Officer, at (301) 903-2314.

cc:

M. Gunn, Chicago Operations Office  
G. Boyd, Oak Ridge Operations Office  
D. Nolan, Berkeley Site Office  
J. Muhlestein, Stanford Site Office  
P. Kruger, Pacific Northwest Site Office